

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10517 161554Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----107933 161607Z /50

O 161520Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4940
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10517

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PORG, LE, IS, UN
SUBJECT: 1949 ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEBANON AND ISRAEL

REF: A) TEL AVIV 10463, B) TELAVIV 10247, C) USUN 3160

1. SOMETHING MOST PECULIAR SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED TO THE LEBANESE RESPONSE TO DAYAN'S LETTER OF AUGUST 3, 1978. (REF C INDICATES THAT IT WAS IN WALDHEIM'S HANDS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 10. YET, AS OF TODAY, AUGUST 16, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS HAD NO RPT NO INDICATION FROM WALDHEIM THAT ANY RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

2. AFTER WEIZMAN RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH ME YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT I SHOULD TOUCH BASE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO HAVE BEEN HANDLING THE MATTER TO MAKE SURE THAT WEIZMAN'S COMMENT TRACKED. WHEN I SPOKE TO EVRON THIS MORNING, HE SAID THAT THE GOI HAD AS YET RECEIVED NOTHING BACK FROM THE UN AND WAS THEREFORE STILL AWAITING THE LEBANESE REPLY TO DAYAN'S LETTER. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS PASSING STRANGE SINCE THE LEBANESE UN MISSION HAD
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BRIEFED US ON BOTH DAYAN'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM AND TADMOURY'S RESPONSE. EVRON WONDERED WHETHER WALDHEIM WAS PAYING SOME SORT OF PECULIAR GAME. I SAID I IMAGINED THAT THERE WAS A MUCH SIMPLE EXPLANATION: THAT UN COMMUNICATIONS WERE NOTORIOUSLY SLOW. (I AM NOT SURE THIS EXPLANATION IS VERY PERSUASIVE, BUT I DID NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING MORE TO EXACERBATE THE EXISTING LEVEL OF

ISRAELI DISTRUST OF WALDHEIM.)

3. SUGGEST THAT USUN TRY TO TRACK DOWN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT HAS HAPPENED. UNLESS THE LEBANESE HAVE RETRACTED THEIR RESPONSE, IT OUGHT TO BE PASSED IMMEDIATELY TO THE ISRAELI UN MISSION IN NEW YORK. LEWIS

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